

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /078 W
-----013950 040933Z /10

R 031636Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9161
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, ELAB, BG
SUBJ: WORKERS STAGE MAY DAY RALLIES; LABOR ADVISOR SAYS
NEW LABOR POLICY WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS

1. WELL OVER A DOZEN LABOR FRONTS OF THE VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES STAGED RALLIES IN DACCA ON MAY DAY, WHICH WAS ALSO THE FIRST DAY THAT PUBLIC POLITICAL MEETINGS WERE ALLOWED IN PREPARATION FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ON JUNE 3. THE RALLIES WERE NOT PRIMARILY ORGANIZED AS PART OF THE CAMPAIGN PROCESS AND DID NOT DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. INSTEAD, MANY OF THE VARIOUS FRONTS USED THE OCCASION TO DEMAND A NEW LABOR POLICY WHICH WOULD CONFORM TO THE PRINCIPLES ESTABLISHED BY THE ILO AND WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE RIGHT TO STRIKE.

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2. AT A RALLY BY THE LABOR FRONT OF THE POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZED ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT ZIA, JAGODAL, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR FOR LABOR ZAKARIA CHOWDHURY SAID THAT THE BDG WAS WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF WORKERS AND THAT NEW HOUSING AND HOSPITALS WERE BEING CONSTRUCTED FOR THEM. CHOWDHURY ALSO SAID THAT A WAGE AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION, INCLUDING WORKER'S REPRESENTATIVES, WOULD SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

ON NEW MINIMUM WAGES BY JUNE. ALSO, A TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED TO WRITE A NEW LABOR POLICY WHICH WOULD HAD BEEN FORMED TO WRITE A NEW LABOR POLICY WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE RIGHT TO STRIKE. CHOWDHURY HOPED THE REPORT WOULD BE READY "IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS".

3. COMMENT: THE EXISTANCE OF A WAGE AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION HAD NOT, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, BEEN ANNOUNCED EARLIER, AND PRESUMABLY ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM THE WORK OF THE PAY AND SERVICES COMMISSION, WHOSE RECOMMENDATIONS, AFFECTING GOVERNMENT WORKERS ONLY, HAVE BEEN CONTROVERSIAL. A NEW LABOR POLICY ALLOWING THE RIGHT TO STRIKE HAD BEEN PROMISED BY PRESIDENT ZIA ONE YEAR AGO DURING HIS CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFERENDUM. IF NEW MINIMUM WAGES CAN BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, IT MAY HELP ZIA. SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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